

Proceeding: In the Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Part of the ☒ Record 1 of 2
Applicant Name: Vincent Fiscus
Proceeding Name: 98-143 Author Name: Vincent Fiscus
Lawfirm Name:
Contact Name: Contact Email: vlfiscus@mcn.net
Address Line 1: 1236 Grubstake Circle
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City: Billings State: MT ☒
Zip Code: 59105 Postal Code:
Submission Type: CO ☒ Submission Status: ACCEPTED ☒ Viewing Status: UNRESTRICTED ☒
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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I am a member of the ARRL and an ARRL accredited volunteer examiner. However, I am not in favor of nor do I support the proposal that was submitted by the ARRL to the FCC on the restructuring of the Amateur Radio service. I do support the restructuring of the Amateur Radio Service as proposed by the FCC (WT Docket No. 98-143) and would like to offer the following requested comments:

The Novice class license should be phased out as the Technician class license has become the entry level license to the service. Former Novice class HF spectrum should be reclassified for use by General, Advanced, and Extra class licenses, or remain "as-is" for use by Technician class licenses (If it is decided that Technician class licensees should have HF privileges). Power levels for grandfathered Novice and Technician plus licensees should remain at 200 watts in their sub-bands. The new Technician license should have the same privileges and examination requirements as the old Technician plus class licenses. The new Technician license would require passing Element 1A five WPM morse code exam.

On the volunteer examiner proposal RM-9148, I prefer no changes.

RACES: I support phasing out RACES. In emergencies, licensed Radio Amateurs not affiliated with any emergency organization often provide communication when and where ever needed.

Privatization of Enforcement procedures: I am not sure if enforcement procedures can be privatized, however, one solution to correcting violations in the Amateur Radio service would be to try and prevent them from occurring in the first place. This could be accomplished by requiring candidates pass a more rigorous Amateur Radio exam. Making an Amateur Radio license harder to earn, better individuals will hold licenses. If licenses become easier to obtain, more candidates will be licensed and rules violations and enforcement problems could increase. Remember, the goal of restructuring is to relieve some of the burdens the FCC has with the service.

Telegraphy Examination Requirements: I support keeping the telegraphy requirements unchanged. Element 1A for Technician, Element 1B for General and Advanced, Element 1C for Extra class. Unfortunately, there are as many valid reasons for keeping Amateur Radio telegraphy requirements as there are valid reasons for phasing them

out. The telegraphy requirement is a stop-gap to the Amateur Radio Service and does make a license more difficult to obtain, but when an individual has to work harder for something they tend to appreciate that something a little more and won't abuse it once it has been attained. An Amateur Radio telegraphy requirement can ensure better practices on the ham bands because individuals appreciate the rewards of their hard work.

Written Examinations: The topics covered in Amateur Radio written examinations should continue to be mandated by the FCC. I do believe the current list of topics cover relevant material and no new topics need to be added.

Examinations: (More comments) A passing score on written examinations should be increased from 70% to 90%. This would increase the difficulty of the exams without requiring the creation of new exams or questions. Another change which would improve the service, would be to require Radio Amateurs seeking license renewal to retest and pass all exam elements required for their license class. This would mean licensed amateurs must stay familiar with current service regulations and subject matter.

Telegraphy Medical Exemption: I have never been presented with a 610 form that had a signed medical waiver, so I don't have an opinion on it.

Thank you
73 de Vincent Fiscus, KB7ADL
vlfiscus@mcn.net

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